UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION NEW MEXICO State College, New Mexico

10-3-47 No. 262

WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

1948 COLHITTEEMEN

ELECTIONS SOON - With the elections for local farmer committeemen to administer the 1948 agricultural conservation and related programs approaching, it is time for New Mexico farmers to begin thinking of elections, says Mr. C. V. Hemphill, Chairman of the State Committee.

Hemphill said that farm program elections will be held between October 13 and November 28 and that cooperating farmers should start thinking of how the farm program is organized and the leadership needed for the program. The committeeman system of administration is one of the cornerstones of the national program, and its strength depends on how farmers support the organization by participating in elections.

There will be no major changes in procedure for holding elections this year. Plans will be along the lines of those used last year.

AS OTHERS SEE US - The concern about the wasting away of soil through wind and water erosion recalls a story which happened several years ago. It goes like this:

A farm magazine published pictures of a dilapidated house and a washed-away field and invited its readers to "tell your own story of the two pictures." An Oklahoma Indian won over 2,604 contestants with the following:

"Both pictures show white man crazy. Make big tepee, plow hill. Water wash. Wind blow soil, grass all gone. Squaw gone, papoose too. No chuck-away. No pig, no corn, no hay, no cow, no pony. Indian no plow. land. Keep grass. Buffalo eat. Indian eat buffalo. Hide make tepee, moccasins, too. Indian no make terrace. No build dam. No give dam. All time eat. No hunt job. No hitchhike. No ask relief. No shoot pig. Great Spirit make grass. Indian no waste anything. Indians no work. White man heap crazy."

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Mr. Davidson said that Food and Agriculture Organization estimates indicate a strong foreign demand for American agricultural commodities until 1950, but he added that it is possible that the permanent foreign market is smaller than we think. He pointed out, however, that "if the export of industrial products could be expanded, there would be more employment in this country and a stronger domestic demand for our food and fiber."

Showing how closely farm prosperity is tied in with industrial prosperity, Mr. Davidson said, "The demand for farm products is closely related to consumer purchasing power. That consumer purchasing power in turn is related to the level of employment. And employment, finally, is related to the over—all level of industrial activity."

Along this line, he said that the passage of the Employment Act of 1946, in which Congress makes it a continuing policy to "promote maximum employment, production, and purchasing power," is encouraging. This policy, implemented by the Council of Economic Advisors to the President, will go a long way toward correcting our economic ills, he thinks.

Mr. Davidson outlined a program for future farm prosperity which called for: (1) Price-support programs to protect farmers against disastrous declines in market values; (2) fair prices both to consumer and farmer; (3) crop-adjustment controls to assure "full production" but not "surplus" production; and (4) increased attention and action to conserve and build the Nation's soil and water resources.

MUCH CORN NOW SAFE FROM FROST - Over half of the corn acreage in 12 Corn Belt States was largely safe from frost as of September 12, the Department of Agriculture has reported.

Ohio has the smallest percentage of corn safe from frost, with only 21 percent in the mature and dented stages. Most farmers in the State are hoping for warm dry weather and no frost before mid-October.

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PARTH MOVING TIME, SAYS AAA CHAIRMAN - It's time to complete ACP dirt-moving practices, advises ______, Chairman of the County Agricultural Conservation Committee, this week. Now that most crops have been harvested the time is favorable for getting the job finished. The work should be done before bad weather and winter prevent its completion.

Dirt-moving practices which can be carried out under the Agricultural Conservation Program include land-leveling, the construction of small irrigation reservoirs, stock-water dams, drains, spreader dams, and terraces.

points out that these projects when completed, are of lasting benefit not only to the farmer and his family but to the community and to the Nation. The measures continue year after year to conserve soil and water, and are of importance to the public generally since they help to assure continued abundant supplies of food for the consumer.

Farmers planning on carrying out any of these practices should be sure that they have prior approval of the county committee and that the completed practices meet specifications. Completed practices should be reported to the county office, together with required measurements and proofs of completion.

MARKET FOR FULL FARM
PRODUCTION SEEN - There is no need for a "Boom-bust" for American farmers,
said Dave Davidson, PMA Assistant Administrator for Production in a recent
address. He expressed a conviction that potential domestic markets — with few
exceptions — can absorb all that American farmers can produce.

But to maintain a market for full production at fair prices, there must be a good balance between the prosperity of the farm and the non-farm segments of our population. That "good balance" depends on how well we guard against "pricing farm products out of the market" and on what is done to prevent ruinously low prices from breaking down the farm market.

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While a killing frost will not injure mature or well dented corn, such corn must still "dry" down to around 20 percent to be safe for rapid cribbing. The amount of warm sunshiny weather determines the rate of drying. Studies indicate mature corn loses moisture at the rate of about 1 percent per day in September, 1/2 percent in October, and even less in November.

Kentucky had 69 percent of her corn in the safe stages on September 12, and Kansas and Missouri each had 68 percent. Heat and drought in these two States have speeded up maturity and resulted in much light chaffy corn. In Iowa about two-thirds of the corn was safe; in Minnesota, 59 percent; and Nebraska, 55%.

FARM SHORTS - About 60 million Americans were at work in July, according to Commerce estimates. Employment off the farm reached a peacetime high of 50 millions. As the peak harvest passed, the number of workers on farms dropped. Unemployment stayed at the June figure of 2.6 millions.

Among commodity prices moving up from July to August were those for coal, iron, steel, petroleum products, and automobiles. Wholesale prices of many farm products shared the advance.

More than 96 percent of the 1946-47 world exports of 28,393,000 long tons of grains and their products, exclusive of rice, moved from four countries — the U. S., Canada, Argentina, and Australia.

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10-10-47 No. 263

WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

PINTO BEAN LOAN AND PURCHASE AGREEMENT PROGRAM ANNOUNCED - A program authorizing county ACA committees to
approve CCC loans on pinto beans is now ready, Mr, Chairman of the
County Agricultural Conservation Association announced today.
Loans are available on eligible beans stored in either approved warehouses or
farm storage structures. If a farmer does not wish to use the loan program
but desires protection against a price decline, CCC will guarantee support
price by means of the Purchase Agreement Program. Details regarding both
programs can be secured at the County ACA office located at,
Mrsaid.

The cash advance in case a loan is secured is \$5.00 per 100 pounds of sound beans. In case beans are delivered to CCC under either the loan or Purchase Agreement Program the settlement price will be \$7.90 for U. S. No. 1 and \$7.75 for U. S. No. 2.

FOR EARLIER PASTURES

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - Pastures two or three weeks earlier next spring from the NEXT SPRING use of fertilizers this fall was suggested this week by Mr. C. V. Hemphill. Chairman of the New Mexico State PMA Committee. Hemphill said that the more vigorous growth resulting from the use of fertilizers not only makes the pasture earlier but there is more to the feed produced.

The heavy demand for grain to feed the hungry people in Europe emphasizes the importance of better and earlier pastures.

Better and earlier pastures will mean that less grain will have to be fed. More grain for use as human food in this country and for export to hungry people in Europe and more economical production of dairy and other livestock products is the result, Hemphill said.

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WASTE NOT THAT OTHERS MAY NOT WANT - "Waste less food" is the battle cry of the new program set up to combat hunger in the world this coming winter. Adverse crop developments including those of recent weeks, both in North America and Europe, make apparent a food shortage even worse than a year ago.

Whether or not all the stories about food waste are true, each of us should take stock of our own methods of handling food. Are we wasting food? Are we buying wisely and using wisely the food we buy? What about leftovers?

Those who have studied the food situation in Europe report that the losses from heavy frosts in Northwestern Europe last winter have been increased by a general drought during the past summer. They say also that any significant cut in the already low rations in those countries will have serious consequences for their rehabilitation.

To relieve the suffering and hunger in those countries we are told that there is one personal thing each of us can do. We can waste less food.

Especially should we conserve foods requiring substantial amounts of grain.

The importance of grain in exports for hungry people of Europe is emphasized when the costs of calories are considered. At present prices, from \$2 to \$5 is required for 100,000 calories in wheat, flour, coarse grains, dry peas, lard and edible oils, and sugar. Ten dollars per 100,000 calories is required for milled rice, dry beans, dried prunes, raisins, peanuts and nonfat dry milk solids. Practically all animal products and processed fruits and vegetables would run considerably higher than \$30 per 100,000 calories.

President Truman has called upon all of us to help out and Charles Luckman, head of the Citizens Food Committee, says that he believes that the food crisis can be solved through voluntary cooperation of the people of the United States.

Certainly if each of us will do all we can to cut down on food waste it's going to help to relieve the food shortage in Europe and it may not be so bad for us—either.

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A POUND A WEEK - C. V. Hemphill, New Mexico State PMA Committee Chairman, U. S. Department of Agriculture, urged homemakers to set for themselves a quota of at least one pound of used kitchen fats per week to put the government-industry fat salvage program over in 1947.

"If the teamwork of the homemaker, retailer and renderer continues at the present rate, the world-wide deficit of industrial fats and oils will be relieved to an appreciable degree. However, the safest way to insure maintaining our present record would be a self-set weekly quota for every homemaker in New Mexico," Hemphill explained.

He pointed out in the five years of the program's operation, "more than 600 million pounds have been turned in, which is nearly 20 pounds for every family in the United States, and even the smallest family should be able to save a minimum of one pound each week."

Production of fats and oils for the year now is expected to be one-sixth less than pre-war years and the deficit must be made up with fats saved in the kitchen, the PMA official concluded.

FARTER CO-OPS CONTINUE GROWTH - Farmers' marketing and purchasing cooperatives had over 5 million memberships in the 1945-46 season, compared with $4\frac{1}{2}$ million members a year earlier. Many farmers are members of more than one cooperative.

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Volume of business also reached a new peak, undoubtedly due to the rise in prices of products farmers sell and of supplies that farmers buy.

Leading States in number of co-ops is Minnesota, where 1,352 associations have a membership of 506,000. Wisconsin is second in number of associations with 1,002, and Illinois is second in membership with 485,000. California leads in business volume with \$652 million; Minnesota is second with \$577 million.

WORLD POTATO CROP

SLIGHTLY BELOW 1946 - World potato production for 1947-48 may reach 7,081 million bushels, only slightly below the 1946-47 production of 7,133 million but 16 percent less than the 1935-39 average.

Lower yields, particularly in major producing countries of Europe where the crops have suffered from shortage of fertilizer, drought, and heat, account for most of the loss in production. Total acreage is estimated at about 51 million acres, 3 million greater than for the preceding season but nearly 2 million less than the prewar average.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION State College. N. M.

10-17-47

No. 264

WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

WHAT PRICE CONSERVATION - A maximum amount of conservation for each dollar spent! That has been the objective of the 31 county committees who have administered the Agricultural Conservation Program in New Mexico during the past year. But how much conservation is being bought for each dollar spent?

First, it should be understood that conservation practices, whether carried out by the Government or by farmers, does cost money. The question is one of determining the method of obtaining the most conservation for the least cost.

ACP financial assistance to farmers, according to C. V. Hemphill, Chairman of the New Mexico State PMA Committee, represents only a small part of the total cost of conservation. In the first place, the farmer himself stands about half the cost of practices. Then these practices act as a stimulating force that encourages farmers to carry out practices in addition to the ones for which he receives assistance.

It has been a program policy to shift emphasis to new practices after original ones become established. In this way, the assistance to farmers several years ago is continuing to return conservation dividends even though assistance is not given under the current program.

Thus, the dollar spent by the Government for conservation under the Agricultural conservation Program is returning manyfold in conservation accomplished.

FARMERS URGED TO REPORT CONSER-- Farmers who have completed conservation practices VATION PRACTICES PROMPTLY under the 1947 farm program should report these practices promptly to the county agricultural conservation committee. C. V. Hemphill, Chairman of the New Mexico State PMA Committee, points out that considerable delay in getting assistance payments to farmers can be avoided by more promptly reporting of practices.

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He explained farmers themselves have a responsibility in supplying the county committee with evidence that practices have been carried out. Every year there are a few farmers who fail to report on the practices completed and then after the deadline is passed come in and want to know why payments haven't been received. They point out that they have completed the practices in accordance with specifications and that the assistance upon which they are depending to pay for seed or for work done hasn't come in.

Funds to assist farmers in carrying out conservation practices are allocated on a yearly basis and for that reason a "cut off" date has to be set. Then too, Mr. Hemphill said, funds tied up to help one farmer may be released to help another where intended practices are not carried out by the first farmer.

So. if you have completed the conservation practices on your farm, let the county committee know right away.

NEW TEXTCO ALFALFA SEED PRICE WILL BE SUPPORTED - The price of alfalfa seed will be supported this year through a purchase agreement program. The U. S. Department of Agriculture announced that the support level for alfalfa seed will be 17 cents. In the program, the Commodity Credit Corporation will agree to purchase seed in May 1948. Other details about the program can be obtained from the County Agricultural Conservation Committee.

GREEN MANURE PRODUCES

HEAVY TOWNACE - How much green manure does an acre of blue lupine produce? That is a question which farmers have asked ACP committeemen many times.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Florida Experiment Station have carried on tests on the farms of cooperating farmers in the western counties of the State and have found some answers to the question.

In one series of tests, an October 1 planting of blue lupine produced

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nearly 28,000 pounds of green manure when the crop was ready to turn under the following spring. In another test the earliest planting, made on October 15, produced 40,000 pounds of green manure to turn under on February 28. Later plantings in all tests yielded less green manure.

Another question that often perplexes farmers is the value of a legume cover crop, such as Austrian peas or hairy vetch, as compared with a crop that doesn't gather nitrogen. Again in Florida the scientists compared the yield of pecans from trees that had the benefit of Austrian winter pea and hairy vetch cover crops with the yield when an oat cover crop was used. The trees which had the benefit of the Austrian winter pea or hairy vetch cover crop yielded up to nearly four times as much as the trees which had the oats cover crop.

"An even more important service of these cover crops," ______,
Chairman of the County ACA, pointed out, "is to hold the soil in place and to
add organic matter."

SUPPORT PRICES FOR HOGS SET — The support level for hog prices was announced by the U. S. Department of Agriculture recently. For the six months from September 15 to March 15, the price will vary on the basis of Chicago from \$16.75 a hundred for the first week in October to \$14.50 for the four weeks in December.

These support prices have been determined because under the law hog prices must be supported at not less than 90 percent of parity through the year 1948. However, Department officials do not expect that hog prices will decline to the support level during the time covered by the present schedule. The average price of hogs at the present time is about \$10 a hundred above the support level.

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FAR! INCOE STILL LAGS BEHIND CITY - There is still a wide gap between city and farm purchasing power, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brannan said recently in testifying before Senate and House agricultural committees relative to long-range agricultural programs.

Citing statistics to prove his statement, Mr. Brannan pointed out that last year nonfarm people netted \$1,326 per capita; farm people netted only \$620. Even after deducting the cost of food, nonfarm people had half again as many dollars as farm people, on a per capita basis.

Before the war, farm income per capita was 40 percent of city income. In 1946, it was 60 percent, but living costs on farms have increased more than in cities and this has cut down the relative gain in farm income to 50 percent of nonfarm income.

WORLD COTTON SUPPLY SMALLER - World supplies of cotton for 1947-48 are indicated at 43.2 million bales, according to a preliminary survey. This figure is made up of August 1 stocks of 17.5 million and prospective 1947-48 production of 25.7 million. The total supply last year was 45.6 million bales.

World cotton production is considerably below the present rate of consumption, falling short in 1946-47 by more than 6 million bales. In 1947-48, world production is tentatively estimated at 25.7 million bales, compared with last year's 21.4 million bales. The U. S. accounts for 3.2 million of the total increase, China for 200,000, and the Soviet Union for 150,000.

The greatest reduction in stocks was in the United States, from 7,326,000 bales to 2,521,000. In most of the importing countries, stocks remained roughly equal to those of a year ago.

WHO EATS THE MEAT? - Consumer demand for a given supply of meat — and the price of that meat — is determined largely by how much money people have and who has it. This is the conclusion of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the Department of Agriculture.

City people consume more meat per person than rural people who have the same incomes. Rural nonfarm people consume less than farmers. Within each income class, city families consume more beef and veal per person than either farmers or nonfarm rural people. City people also generally consume much more lamb than rural people who have the same income.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION State College, New Mexico

10-24-47 No. 265

WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

ANDERSON URGES CENTRALIZING FARM PROGRAMS — Centralizing farm programs at "grass roots" levels was proposed by Secretary of Agriculture Anderson as the final point in the Administration's long-range agricultural program, recently recommended to Congressional farm committees.

In urging coordination and consolidation in States and counties, the Secretary submitted these recommendations of his Policy and Program Committee:

- 1. Establishment of a USDA farmer-elected county committee in each county.
- 2. Consolidation of housing of all agricultural agencies in the county.
- 3. Establishment of a USDA State committee in each State.
- 4. Consolidation of the Soil Conservation Service program activities and the Agricultural Conservation Program activities into one conservation program and agency.
- 5. Provision for an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture to whom the Secretary could assign national responsibility with respect to the State and County USDA Committees. To that Assistant Secretary could also be assigned responsibility for integrating the work of Departmental agencies carried out in the counties.

Regarding the suggestions, Secretary Anderson said: "It is only good sense to centralize within the county responsibility for the development of a county conservation plan, approval of the requests of soil conservation districts for assistance, determination of farm acreage allotments and farm marketing quotas when those programs are in effect, certification of eligible applicants for Farmers Home Administration loans, and so on.

"The county committees should be democratically elected by the farmers of the county. These committees should be not merely advisory or coordinating groups but would have specific responsibilities which would make them effective in attaining coordination.

The county committees would provide assistance in developing local agricultural programs and in relating Department of Agriculture activities to

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local needs. They would correlate local programs with national food and agricultural objectives. They would assist the Secretary of Agriculture in the coordination and integration of the facilities of the Department at the county level. With the concurrence and participation of the Land-Grant Colleges, the county committee could coordinate work of the Federal agencies in the county and the related activities of the Cooperative Extension Service in the county.....

"We suggest a _State_7 committee made up of five farmers, the State Secretary of Agriculture or Commissioner of Agriculture, and a representative of the Land-Grant College. The farmer members might be either appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture or elected by county committees, or perhaps a combination of the two methods of choice might be used.....

"Much is said about the wealth which came to agriculture during the war. It is true that in agriculture, as in many other businesses, many people have made a great deal of money during the period of big demand and high prices. But many other people have shared only to a very small extent in the prosperity. No matter how you figure it, most of the people in agriculture are in the low-income bracket of the country.

"That is my answer to the people who would have us believe that farm people are so well off that Congress should forget about them."

CONSERVATION PROGRAM AIDS SMALL FARMERS — The Nation's small farmers are getting a major share of assistance in carrying out soil and water conservation practices under the Agricultural Conservation Program.

Allen W. Manchester, who heads up PMA's Agricultural Conservation Programs

Branch, gives the following analysis of program operations. The study was based
on 1944 records but the figures serve as a reliable index of operations since then.

A check shows that 3,847,000 farmers carried out soil and water conservation practices. This is something over 65 percent of all farmers enumerated in the

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census, which lists thousands of farmers who operate small residential tracts or small poultry or other intensive type farms.

In the South, farms under 20 acres received assistance averaging \$1.67 per acre in carrying out conservation practices. The average per acre for farms over 720 acres was 40 cents.

In Louisiana, assistance varied from an average of \$2.18 per acre on farms under 20 acres to 81 cents per acre on farms over 720 acres.

A part of this increase for small farmers is the result of the program provision for increases in small payments.

It is quite clear that county conservation committees are giving more assistance -- acre for acre -- to the small farms. This is due in part to the fact that, in general, conservation needs are greater on the small farms and the ability of the operator to carry out conservation practices is usually less. The small farmer needs more help.

CONSERVATION CONDENSED - Ten years of conservation in two days is being planned for a Pennsylvania GI by the Production and Marketing Administration and other cooperating agencies.

Plans are to completely reconstruct the farm recently purchased by the veteran and his young wife. Soil Conservation Service technicians will run levels and establish countour strips and diversion ditches, stake out a farm pond, establish fence lines for hillside permanent pastures and to segregate a section of steep hillside for reforestation. Twenty-five tractors and other pieces of earthmoving equipment will move in to construct the pond, build terraces and dikes, and clear fence rows and hedges. Lime and phosphate will be spread. Trees will be planted.

Assistance under the Agricultural Conservation Program will be made from a special allocation of funds by the county conservation committee. The conservation

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practices will be carried out according to program specifications.

Veterans from surrounding counties have been invited to attend the demonstration in connection with the Veteran Farm Training program. County agricultural conservation committees from 21 counties will be given a demonstration in the use of modern earth-moving equipment.

The farm was selected because of the need for rehabilitation since little work has been done on it for several years. It had been virtually abandoned. Crowding 10 years of conservation into 2 days is expected to put this farm back into production and to help the GI and his wife get a good start in conservation farming.

RANGE PRODUCES MORE BEEF - Cattle ranchers often say that they are most interested in the number of pounds of beef they can sell off their range, according to C.V. Hemphill, State Chairman of the Production and Marketing Administration Committee. He says further that, if anyone has a plan of handling the range which will produce more beef, then these ranchers are for it.

As an example of how one ranch increased the number of pounds of beef by balancing the number of cattle they ran on their range, he points out the experience of the Victorio Land and Cattle Company. In the years from 1926 to 1933 they had an average of nearly 19,000 breeding cows on their range. Their average annual beef production was 2,158,180 pounds. In the drought years, they cut down the number of breeding cows more than a half...but that reduced the beef production less than 10 percent. In the period from 1937 to 1941, they reduced the herd of breeding cows still further to 6,190 head. But during that period the amount of beef produced increased almost 350,000 pounds a year, to an annual average of 2,506,685 pounds.

Hemphill pointed out that 350,000 pounds of beef a year was a good payment for balancing their cattle with their range feed. If the number of animals on

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the range is kept in balance with the feed produced, the range will continue to produce more pounds of beef than when it is overstocked. And the additional grass will hold the soil from blowing or washing away.

One of the most important parts of the range-improvement part of the agricultural conservation program, is the grazing land management practice, under which the number of animals on the range is balanced with the amount of feed produced. Any rancher who is interested in the improvement of his range through the ACP program should get in touch with a member of his county ACP committee for further information.

11.5 MILLION BALE COTTON CROP EXPECTED - Hot, dry weather has reduced prospects for the cotton crop to 11,508,000 bales. This compares with 8,640,000 bales produced in 1946, and the 1936-45 average of 12,390,000 bales.

The 21,143,000 acres estimated on September 1 to be harvested this year are expected to yield an average of 261.3 pounds lint per acre. This would be 26 pounds above that harvested last year and 10.7 pounds above the 10-year average. The record U.S. yield per acre of 298.9 pounds was produced in 1944.

Almost 4 million bales had been ginned from the 1947 crop prior to October 1, compared with 2,334,443 bales for 1946.

CCC BUYS BEANS, PEAS FOR FOREIGN RELIEF - Since the first of August, the Commodity Credit Corporation has bought 14,300,000 pounds of Alaska peas, 12,120,000 pounds of baby lima beans, and 1,080,000 pounds of Great Northern beans to fill allocations under the U. S. Foreign Relief Program. Destinations are Austria, Greece, and Italy.

Rice is also to be bought on competitive bids to meet export requirements, the Department of Agriculture has announced.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION State College, New Mexico

10-31-47 No. 266

WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

A REAL CONTRIBUTION - American women are making a real contribution to the welfare of their own country and to the recovery of the rest of the world by saving and turning in their used cooking fat.

WHO PAYS FOR EROSION? - Who foots the bill for the conservation that is not carried out? Who pays when soil is washed away and water wasted?

Under the Agricultural Conservation Program, assistance from public funds go to help pay the cost of carrying out approved conservation practices. This assistance averages about 50 percent of the "out of pocket" costs of the practices. The farmer pays his half of money costs and usually does the work. In this way the public shares with the farmer the expense of saving soil and water.

But who pays for erosion? Who will pay for the third of the Nation's top-soil already gone? Who will pay for the half-million acres of farmland now being lost each year? It is estimated that farms in this country have an annual loss of \$400 million from erosion.

The cost, however, according to C. V. Hemphill, Chairman of the New Mexico State PNA Committee, cannot always be measured in dollars and cents. Eventually human lives and human happiness must be figured in on the balance sheet. The desolation of today in parts of the world where mighty nations once flourished is mute evidence of the cost and of who pays the bill when soil is neglected.

In China, where fertile soil and abundant food made possible a high civilization as early as 400 B.C., soil in many parts of the country has been worm out and washed away until famine is common, and a perpetual struggle against hunger and starvation is taken for granted.

The assistance given farmers through the Agricultural Conservation Program to help carry out conservation practices is an investment in food production.

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It means more abundant production - now and in the years to come. The program is a check against muddy streams and dust-filled skies which mean just that much less food. Bread, eggs, meat, vegetables, milk, and fruit are the real loss when soil goes down the river.

But who pays for the loss? According to Hemphill, the consumer pays. Lost soil means lower yields. Lower yields mean less food on the grocery shelves. That leads to higher prices to the consumers. In the end the consumer pays, as in China, with a lower standard of living.

The Agricultural Conservation Program gives assistance to farmers as a direct method of getting the conservation job done. It provides the means for consumers to cooperate with farmers for abundance. The alternative is neglect of the soil with resulting higher costs later.

CONSERVATION BENEFITS ACCUIDENTE - The ability of the Nation's farms to produce the food needed for consumers in this country and to share with the hungry of Europe has been strengthened by 12 years of conservation farming, according to C. V. Hemphill, Chairman of the New Mexico State PNA Committee. He said that, through assistance to farmers in carrying out conservation practices, approximately two-thirds of the Nation's cropland has been brought under the Agricultural Conservation Program.

The lasting benefits of this investment in conservation have accumulated and will continue to return dividends for years to come.

The 750,000 miles of terraces, for instance, built during the past 12 years, have checked erosion and run-off in the past and will continue to slow down erosion in the future. Much more terracing should be done, but the terraces which have been built will continue to return dividends in soil and water saved and in better yields of food and fiber.

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Quite often as a companion practice to terracing, seeding of close-sown crops on the contour was carried out on some $27\frac{1}{2}$ million acres in the 12 years of the program. For intertilled crops, the acreage seeded on the contour totals around $85\frac{1}{2}$ million acres.

These practices working together check the down-hill flow of water and more soil and water is kept on the farm to grow more food and feed.

POOLING AGREE TENTS PROVE PRACTICAL - Soil and water conservation problems affecting an individual farm are not always limited to the farm itself. Quite often, and this is especially true on irrigated farms, the most serious problems are of a community nature.

On a canal carrying water to several farms there may be a serious seepage problem. More than half the water turned in at the head diversion gate may be lost before it reaches the turn-out gate of the farm served by the canal. Obviously this loss can be corrected only by the joint action of farmers served by the canal.

The same is true where a canal crosses a wash or ravine. Flash floods and spring run-offs are a constant threat to the irrigation system. Floods not only damage the canal and cut off the water supply but the loss of soil generally is excessive.

The Agricultural Conservation Program provides that a group of farmers may "pool" their resources in carrying out conservation practices to meet a community or group need. Part or all the funds allocated to help carry out conservation practices on each farm may be used to assist in carrying out the group project. The project, however, must have the prior approval of both the County Agricultural Conservation Committee and the State PMA Committee.

The construction of drains, lining of canals, building of small irrigation

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reservoirs, establishing of windbreaks, and rip-rapping of stream banks to prevent erosion are examples of community projects which are being carried out under the pooling agreement provision of the program.

Under the 1946 program, a total of 13,844 farmers participated in 1,185 pooling agreements. Most of these were in connection with irrigation.

TERRACES CHECK RUN-OFF, HOLD SOIL - In many parts of the country, terraces have proved very effective in checking run-off and soil erosion. They serve as "corrective" instead of "curative" measures. The water which falls on the land is either stopped or diverted and slowed down in its flow down the slope. In both cases, more of the moisture is retained on the land. This means more water for growing crops and both the water and the soil are held on the farm instead of rushing down hill.

Because of their value in checking erosion, terraces have been included and emphasized in the Agricultural Conservation Program. In the South, especially they have been of great worth in preventing and checking erosion.

Under the 1946 Agricultural Conservation Program farmers in this country built 78,000 miles of terraces. Considering that it is roughly about 3,000 miles across the United States, the amount of terracing done under the 1946 Program takes on added meaning. But more important is the tons of topsoil and acres of land saved for food production. In the 12 years of the program, 1936-46, inclusive, 672,000 miles of terraces have been constructed under the Agricultural Conservation Program.

CONSERVATION IMPORTANT IN FRANCE TOO - Frenchmen too have had to conserve their soils. After hundreds of years of experience, they describe its importance this way: "Our soil is our country, to save the one is to save the other."

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FARM BUREAU PRESIDENT COMMENTS ON CONSERVATION PAYMENTS - In the October issue of "The Nation's Agriculture," house organ of the Farm Bureau Federation, Ed O'Neal, commenting on the preliminary report of hearings on the long-range farm program before the House agricultural committee, has this to say:

"...any farm program whatsoever must be based on sound principles of soil conservation. Conservation of our greatest natural resource is plainly the joint responsibility of farmers and Government. Present payments to farmers under the PMA program are based on this fundamental and we already have practically universal acceptance of the principle. Therefore I insist that no farm program will be approved by farmers unless it is based on sound principles of soil conservation."

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